

**From:** Robert Boggs  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Honorables,

Microsoft has repeatedly abused its position in the software market to further its own agendas. The release of products such as the latest versions of both Windows and Office only look to continue this pattern of predatory behavior. Through the use of proprietary file formats and forced incompatibilities with older versions of the same software, they force users to upgrade when doing so might otherwise be unnecessary.

In addition, Microsoft has recently acquired the patents to several key features in of the Open GL architecture, a 3D graphics technology. Considering Microsoft's pattern of behavior regarding technologies that are superior to its own, (Embrace, extend, or extinguish) this situation is potentially dangerous. Dangerous because it grants Microsoft significant leverage over the independent 3D hardware manufacturers who are currently supporting the only rival to Microsoft's Direct3D graphics API, OpenGL.

In the past, Microsoft has attempted to modify other technologies to suit its own needs and at the same time lock out potential competition. A good example of this is the attempt to modify Sun's Java. If you recall, Sun won that case against them and Microsoft, rather than support Java as it was intended, has dropped in-house development of it altogether. The results of this are yet to be seen, but many third party developers are second guessing their need to support an important technology like Java because Microsoft no longer is.

There are many other examples of this behavior that cannot be overlooked, but would take pages to cover in any depth. So I will leave you with those two and advise you to look to Open source and alternative software advocacy sites for more evidence as there is a great deal of evidence to be found in the case against Microsoft.

As an IT professional, I urge you to not take this case too lightly and let them off with a simple slap on the wrist.

Thank you

Robert Boggs.